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BGFIEND - Daily Progress Report

13 August 1951

Monday

1. The VALUABLE "Tiger" team which exfiltrated from Albania on 8 August has been debriefed and has reported that they had heard from two sources that the BGFIEND 4-man OLIVE team which was dropped into Albania on July 22/23 was ambushed within a few kilometers of their drop zone southwest of Gjinokastra on July 27. One member of the team was reported captured, two ~~in~~ suicides and one escaped. The valuable team indicated the entire Drino River Valley is filled with security forces, informers and military formations. Four ambushes marked their retreat to the Greek frontier and were actually betrayed by the shepherds who had formerly aided them.

2. The resupply drop to the Cypress team scheduled for the 11th was scratched because of the weather. On the 12th the plane reached its target but failed to drop its cargo because of enemy fire. Apparently the OPC plane is undamaged but further detailed reports are awaited.

3. A report on British Operations on Albania to date in 1951 has been received. A 4-man team was infiltrated by sea in central south Albania on August 7. This team is the 4th to be put into Albania this year. The exit of the "Tiger" team mentioned in paragraph 1 leaves 3 teams in operation. The British plan to infiltrate a 4-man team in mid-September composed of members of the Agrarian Party. A request has been received to permit use of the OPC covert plane to drop this team.

4. A progress report on the Albanian W/T training program now underway in Germany indicates that the first group of fully trained Albanians will not be ready for duty until mid-~~August~~. 14 men are in training.

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